

Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 2

Bill Roy  
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RECEIVED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| STATE:<br>Kansas   |      |
| COUNTY:<br>Shawnee |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY   |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER       | DATE |

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. NAME                         |  |
| COMMON:<br>Charles Curtis House |  |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:                |  |

|  |               |                    |             |
|--|---------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 2. LOCATION                              |               |                    |             |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>1101 Topeka avenue |               |                    |             |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Topeka                  |               |                    |             |
| STATE<br>Kansas                          | CODE<br>66612 | COUNTY:<br>Shawnee | CODE<br>177 |

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 3. CLASSIFICATION   |  |  |  |
| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP  | STATUS   | ACCESSIBLE<br>TO THE PUBLIC  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work<br>in progress<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Comments       |

|  |                  |               |    |
|--|------------------|---------------|----|
| 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY                                       |                  |               |    |
| OWNER'S NAME:<br>Gordon R. Toedman and Marjorie R. Toedman |                  |               |    |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>1101 Topeka avenue                   |                  |               |    |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Topeka                                    | STATE:<br>Kansas | CODE<br>66612 | 20 |

|  |                  |      |    |
|--|------------------|------|----|
| 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION                         |                  |      |    |
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:<br>Register of Deeds |                  |      |    |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>Shawnee County Courthouse          |                  |      |    |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Topeka                                  | STATE:<br>Kansas | CODE | 20 |

|   |        |      |  |
|---|--------|------|--|
| 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS   |        |      |  |
| TITLE OF SURVEY:<br>Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration  |        |      |  |
| DATE OF SURVEY: 1939 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local |        |      |  |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:<br>Record destroyed. A guide book, Kansas, was published in  |        |      |  |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 1939.  |        |      |  |
| CITY OR TOWN:   | STATE: | CODE |  |

|                  |                    |              |      |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|------|
| STATE:<br>Kansas | COUNTY:<br>Shawnee | ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|------|

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 7. DESCRIPTION

|   |   |  |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION   | (Check One)                                 |  |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|   | (Check One)                                 |  |                                | (Check One)                                       |                                |                                    |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered       | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                |                                    |
| DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE  |   |  |                                |   |                                |                                    |
| <p>The Charles Curtis residence located at 1101 Topeka avenue in Topeka is an example of the Eclectic style of architecture in Kansas. The two-story structure is an irregularly shaped building with a full basement. The irregular plan projects a free flowing appearance which is enhanced by the rounded corners and gently curved lines. The building is constructed of red brick laid in a common bond pattern. In contrast, the exterior trim is painted white. Horizontal white stone bands accent the first and second floor lines and the roof line. At the second floor level these bands form the sills and lintels for the windows. The roof of the main portion of the house consists of two four-sided bulbous domes, each with a spire. These domes rest on a decorative cornice, which features coupled brackets and a broad overhang.</p> <p>The windows in the Curtis house are of a great variety of sizes and shapes. At the first floor the majority of the windows are of the rectangular double hung sash type and generally occur in single openings. A large bay window situated on the north side ends at the second floor line. Several windows have semicircular arched tops with arches of radial brick. Stone keystones are used in some of the arches. Flat stone lintels are used at the windows on the east porch. Second floor windows range from simple rectangles to openings with shallow arched tops. All second floor windows have stone sills and stone lintels. The second floor windows are either singles or grouped in two's and three's. Attic windows occur in narrow eyebrow-like openings around the perimeter of the bulbous domes. A large porch supported on square masonry columns is located on the east side.</p> <p>The Charles Curtis Home is an example of a rather unique and distinctive residential architecture incorporating bulbous domes, Romanesque arches and Renaissance massing. It is an early example of Eclecticism in Kansas buildings.</p> |   |  |                                |   |                                |                                    |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| SIGNIFICANCE  |                                       |  |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)   |                                       |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian  | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century   | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |
| SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1878   |                                       |  |  |
| AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |                                       |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal   | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political    | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic   | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art  | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce   | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications   | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  |  |
| STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE   |                                       |  |  |
| <p>The Curtis House at 1101 Topeka avenue in Topeka was the Kansas home of Charles Curtis, United States Senator and Vice-President from 1907 until 1936.</p> <p>Curtis was born in North-Topeka on January 25, 1860. After his mother died in 1863 he lived with his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Curtis, in North Topeka and with his maternal grandmother, Julie Conville Pappan, on the Kaw Indian Reservation in Morris county. (Julie Pappan was the granddaughter of the Kaw Indian chief White Plume.) Curtis worked as a reporter for the North Topeka <u>Times</u> from 1877 until he began studying in the Topeka law office of A. H. Case in 1879. At age 21 he was admitted to the bar; shortly thereafter he became interested in politics and in 1884 was elected county attorney for Shawnee county as a Republican. He was re-elected to this position in 1886.</p> <p>Curtis served in the U. S. House of Representatives from 1893 until 1907. He was elected a U. S. Senator in 1906 and served until 1929, except for a two year period from 1913-1915. While in Congress, Curtis was active and influential in the passage of Indian and farm legislation. In 1929 he became the first vice-president of the United States from a state west of the Mississippi, the first from Kansas, and the first of Indian ancestry. In the presidential election of 1932 the Republican ticket of Hoover and Curtis was defeated and the former vice-president retired from political office. He remained active, however, in party organizations until his death on February 8, 1936.</p> <p>The land at Eleventh and Topeka avenue where the Curtis House stands first went on public record August 10, 1859, when the Rev. Samuel Young Lum was given a warranty deed to the property from the city of Topeka. Several different people owned the property from that time until May, 1878, when Joseph C. Wilson bought the three lots for \$120 apiece. Evidently the house was erected soon after that because the 1879 tax records indicate he had built a very large house. The structure is believed to be the work of Seymour Davis, a prominent architect of the time, although no actual construction records have been found. At the time it was built it was described as "not surpassed by any residence in the city."</p> |                                       |  |  |

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

Continuation Sheet to be added to Charles Curtis house nomination form

The original 1972 nomination form for the Charles Curtis house indicated, "The structure is believed to be the work of Seymour Davis, . . ." New information shows that Davis was not in Topeka until the mid-1880's, some seven or eight years after the house was built. Davis did prepare plans for interior alterations to the front entry hall, probably in the 1890's, and that would presumably explain the traditional association of his name with the house. The architect of the structure remains unidentified.

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(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| STATE            |      |
| Kansas           |      |
| COUNTY           |      |
| Shawnee          |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |
|                  |      |

(Number all entries)

6. Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas

1957 State  
Kansas State Historical Society  
120 West Tenth street  
Topeka, Kansas 66612 code: 20

8. In January, 1880, the 12-room residence was sold to Mrs. Emma Redden, from whom Curtis purchased it in May, 1907. By that date he and his family were spending much of their time in Washington, but on their visits to Topeka, friends and relatives were frequently entertained in the spacious brick house. In 1924, after the death of his wife, Curtis made his home with his half-sister, Mrs. Dolly Gann, in Washington. After his death in 1936 the property was sold by his three children under the terms of his will. The house has had various owners since that time and is now being used as both a residence and an insurance office. Some individuals and groups have urged that the house be preserved as a museum honoring Curtis, but no formal steps have been taken to implement the suggestion.

Other buildings remain which had links to Curtis' life, but this house, it is believed, merits National Register listing because of its association with him during his most productive years in politics and government.

9. "The History of North Topeka," Bulletin of the Shawnee County Historical Society, no. 24 (December, 1955), pp. 46-49.  
Kansas State Historical Society and State Architect's Office,  
"A Study of the Curtis House," a 12 pp. report submitted to the governor and members of the Kansas legislature January 12, 1972.  
The National Cyclopedia of American Biography (New York, James T. White and Co., 1930), pp. 7, 8, 416.  
Root, George A., "Hon. Charles Curtis, United States Senator," 4 pp. typed manuscript in the Kansas State Historical Society library.  
Seitz, Don C., From Kaw Teepee to Capitol (New York, Frederick A. Stokes Co., 1928).  
Topeka Daily Capital, April 30, 1880.  
"Twilight Years of a Mansion," Topeka Capital-Journal, April 17, 1966.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Charbo, Eileen, "Tornado-Damaged House Has Colorful History," Kansas City Star, October 8, 1966.  
 Curtis, Charles, "History of North Topeka," North Topeka Times, December 27, 1878.  
 Ewy, Marvin, "Charles Curtis of Kansas: Vice President of the United States, 1929-1933," The Emporia State Research Studies, v. 10, no. 2 (December, 1961).  
 Glaser, Matthew Quay, "The Remarkable Career of United States Senator Charles Curtis from Kansas," reprinted from the Masonic Review (April, 1928).

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |    | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |    | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | 0 0 0                   | 0 0 0                   |    | 39 02 45  | 95 40 55                |  |
| NE   | 0 0 0                   | 0 0 0                   |    |   |                         |  |
| SE   | 0 0 0                   | 0 0 0                   |    |   |                         |  |
| SW   | 0 0 0                   | 0 0 0                   |    |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard Pankratz, Planner

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: April 26, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas CODE: 66612

20

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name Nyle H. Miller  
Nyle H. Miller  
 Title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Date June 14, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS